



# DHS Matters!

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**Having fun and raising money:** Family independence specialist [Linda Schaefer](#) pitches and county director [Mark Stevens](#) takes his first swim of the day in the dunk tank. This was part of a fundraising venture at Isabella-Midland DHS in June.

## Isabella-Midland remembers one of their own via blood drive

From Linda Smalley, Family Independence Manager

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Isabella-Midland DHS rallied around one of their own June 29 to hold a blood drive. Family independence specialist [Joanne Brown](#)'s mother, Delores Zsoter, had been diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia and required frequent blood transfusions. As a way of saying thank you to the Red Cross, Joanne organized a very successful blood drive.

The DHS drive was held in conjunction with the drive scheduled at the Mt. Pleasant Center. Of those affiliated with the DHS, there were 41 people who donated blood, 10 of whom were first timers. Many of those same volunteers also helped out by working at the registration area, driving people back and forth to the site, and working at the canteen doling out snacks.

In addition, for those who were unable to donate blood there was a fundraiser to help out the local Red Cross food pantry. Again, the response was tremendous! We had volunteers participating in the dunk tank (including county director [Mark Stevens](#) and board member Dale MacDonald), as well as running the event. A hot dog luncheon accompanied the event to maintain everyone's energy level.

At the end of the day we raised \$278 and gave it to the Red Cross Food Pantry. Needless to say, both events were extremely successful. They could not have been accomplished without the dedicated efforts of everyone involved. Talk is already under way and we are looking forward to holding this event on an annual basis.

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**Mark Angers**, juvenile justice specialist (left), and services supervisor **Robert Davidson**, Mark's supervisor, with Mark's award.

## Juvenile justice specialist honored in Livingston County

From Jeanette Freeland, Departmental Analyst  
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**Mark Angers**, Livingston County DHS juvenile justice and foster care specialist, was recognized with a *Local Wrapper of the Year – Livingston County* award June 1 during the Livingston County Human Services Collaborative Body-sponsored "Celebrating Our Community" luncheon. The luncheon celebrated all partners in Livingston's Wraparound Services for being awarded the Excellence in Community Collaboration Award from the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare.

In presenting the Wrapper award to Mark, Juvenile Court Attorney Referee Kathleen Oemke said Mark is an asset to the community and the families served in wraparound. During the award Oemke also said this:

"(Mark) has served on many teams and never fails to bring an open-minded, family-centered approach to the table," she said. "He has provided support to families in the most unique situations with his ability to recognize strengths when it would be easy to focus on problems. He has shown the ability to balance the needs of families with the needs of his agency without compromising teaming. He shares the community child philosophy and does his part to enhance networking and collaboration.

"He initiated the 'Meet and Greet' luncheons we currently have in Livingston County, which serve as an opportunity for service providers to meet together and learn about community resources which can help families. During a time when budget cuts pose barriers for us all, he continues to remain flexible with his time in an effort to meet family needs. We would like to recognize Mark Angers' commitment to teaming for the better interest of families and the community."

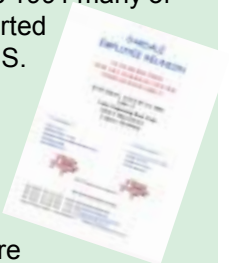
## Oakdale Center alumni planning 15-year reunion

From Kim S. Dillon, ITT  
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Since Oakdale Regional Center closed in June 1991 many of those staff started working at DHS.

The former Oakdale staff are located at many DHS offices around the state. There have been two previous reunions with a tremendous turnout. The 15-year reunion is planned for August 19, 2006 at the Boat Club in Lapeer.



Oakdale Regional Center for Developmental Disabilities in Lapeer was established in 1893 as Michigan Home for the Feeble-minded and Epileptic. It was opened for patients on August 1, 1895. The center's goal was to create a home for those who could not adjust to community life. It also operated on a developmental model that presupposed returning the residents to community living when possible. The center closed in 1992, when it was administered through Michigan Department of Mental Health.

For more information please contact any of these people:

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## News from Manistee-Benzie DHS

From Douglas Lapham

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The offices celebrated the month of May as March of Dimes Month. The first week of the month was "Blue Jeans for Babies" week and, for a donation, employees were allowed to wear blue jeans each day. The second week of the Month was a Teddy Bear Raffle. With eight different colored bears, each wearing a March of Dimes preemie baby shirt, finding new homes. The third week was a silent bake sale, with a lot of great goodies being sold. The baked items were displayed for the day, and silent bids were placed, with the highest bidder on each item taking home their prize. The fourth week wrapped up the month with a March of Dimes cooler and shirts being raffled off. During the entire month there were "Banks for Babies" placed around the offices for everyone to throw their loose change into. The grand total, donated to March of Dimes, by the Manistee-Benzie DHS Employees is \$420.15. A huge "Thank You!" to all Manistee-Benzie workers. You're the greatest!

## Oakland staff and "le tour de Montana" aim to help defeat Type 1 diabetes

From Lynn Contreras

Community Resource Coordinator

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Staff in Oakland County raised \$1,063.10 to go toward a campaign to cure juvenile diabetes in America. Most of the money was raised through a countywide casual day and a few other events. A thank you to everyone that gave so generously and a BIG thank you to District IV that raised \$455! On Aug. 19 more than 200 cyclists will ride 100 miles through the breathtaking scenery of Big Sky country in Whitefish, Mont. to raise money to help find a cure for juvenile diabetes. One of the riders in this event will be **Mac Kern**, the son of Oakland County protective services manager **Marianne Kern**. Mac will be riding in honor of a best friend who is a juvenile diabetic. The money raised is going toward Mac's goal of \$3,500 to help cure juvenile diabetes. Type 1 diabetes is what is commonly called "juvenile diabetes". Most Type 1 diabetics develop the disease as children without warning, on the basis of genetic factors. They come from all walks of life, neighborhoods and ethnic groups. Type 1 also carries constant and considerable short-term risk. Sudden, extreme blood sugar lows and highs can lead to hospitalization, even death.

## Nokomis Challenge Center employee of the quarter

From Melissa Robinson

Nokomis Challenge Center, Prudenville

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**Shirley Reilly** was selected for the summer 2006 Employee of the Quarter award because of her magnificent attitude. She is always willing to go above and beyond what is expected of her. She works hard to communicate with the teaching staff so that the youth get the best treatment possible. If you are looking for Ms. Reilly it is almost a guarantee that she is with the group or in a classroom. Ms. Reilly often goes out of her way to be helpful to staff. She does an excellent job working with the young men at our facility. Ms. Reilly's smile and calm demeanor make life better for those around her. She is truly an asset to the Nokomis Family. For that we say, "Thank You Ms. Reilly, keep it up, you are amazing."

■ Nokomis Challenge Center is a juvenile justice center in Prudenville.



**Shirley Reilly**

## Wayne County thanks TDM community representatives

From Julie Hamel

Family to Family Facilitator

Wayne County DHS South

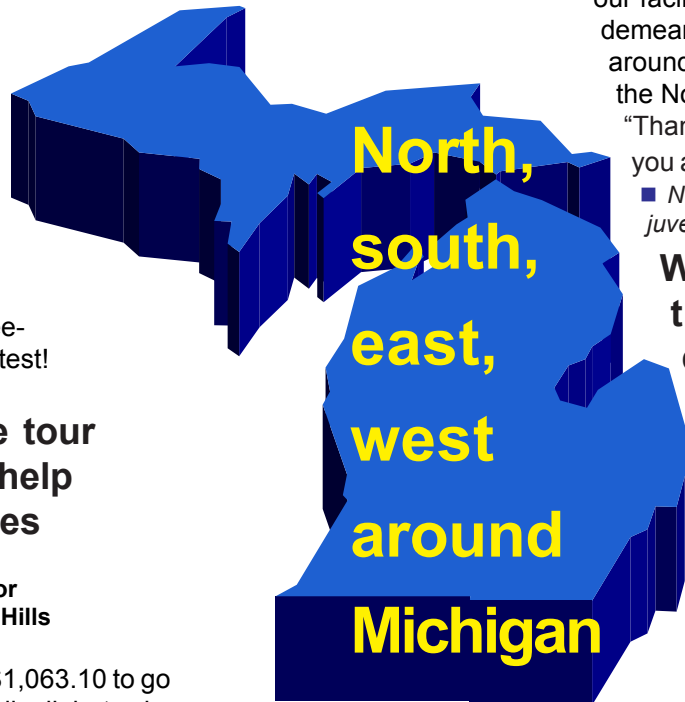
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Family to Family facilitators from South Central, North Central and Western Wayne Child and Family

Services offices in Wayne County hosted an appreciation luncheon May 24 for the community representatives in their district. Community representatives volunteer their time to attend team decision making, or TDM, meetings. TDM meetings are a part of the Family to Family initiative committed to improving results for children and families in Michigan's child welfare system. The luncheon was held at the Karas House in Redford. The facilitators hosted a little over 100 people who were served a buffet style lunch while poet Khary Kimani Turner entertained the volunteers, who were presented with certificates of appreciation for their hard work and dedication. There were also small tokens of appreciation for those "lucky" few whose raffle tickets were randomly selected. This was the second annual appreciation luncheon. The community representative is a volunteer from the family's neighborhood or community. They may represent a service or program where the family lives or be a member of the family's ethnic or cultural community. Community representatives are recruited to participate in TDM meetings because they feel strongly about helping families and the agency in making quality decisions.



## DHS has grant writing workshop; makes award to 30-year CRC

From Pat Weaver, Liaison

DHS Volunteer Services Program, Lansing

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The DHS Volunteer Services Program Office hosted a grant proposal writing workshop for DHS community resource coordinators (CRC) and other designated Central Office staff April 26 in Lansing.

The State Historical Library and Museum was a perfect setting for the intensive, educational workshop presented by Jane Geever of the Foundation Center of New York City, the nation's leading authority on philanthropy.

Geever delivered a wealth of information on proposal writing to the capacity crowd of 76 participants who were unanimous in expressing the value of this training to DHS employees, especially CRC.

In many of the county offices community resource coordinators will have a new responsibility in the role of point person to receive notification of competitive government and corporate grant awards.

The DHS and volunteer services strategic plans focus on fundraising as vital to enhancing client services. The April 26 workshop was a first step to provide the research and writing skills that make for successful proposals.

In addition to the workshop, **Jeanine Diller** introduced participants to the special grants funding system. Diller is public policy analyst with DHS Office of Federal Liaison and Policy Advisor.

This newly developed system is the electronic means to notify community resource coordinators or other designated employees of the latest funding opportunities available to DHS.



**Margaret Shultz**

Adding to the positive experience of the day was a celebration to honor **Margaret Shultz**, community resource coordinator in St. Joseph-Cass counties. For Over 30 years, both personally and professionally, Margaret has contributed her extensive skills, knowledge, compassion, and generous spirit to benefit DHS clients and the greater community where she works and resides.

Along with a gift, cake, and notes of appreciation from other community resource coordinators, Margaret received a proclamation signed by Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, a certificate of appreciation signed by DHS director Marianne Udow and Jocelyn Vanda, director of DHS Interagency and Community Services. It was especially fitting to publicly recognize Margaret on April 26, during the month designated for National Volunteer Appreciation.

In her accepting remarks, Margaret recalled how, in high school, she made a commitment to community service that evolved into a most rewarding career with DHS. She thanked everyone for the commendation, noting that it was especially significant for her to be honored in the presence of her peers.



From left, **Clara Bartalino**, St. Clair DHS director **Jim Nunnold** and **Kay Yuhaz** at a volunteer week celebration.

### Retirees make great volunteers

From Barb LaRue, Community Resource Coordinator  
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St. Clair County has many great volunteers and this National Volunteer Week was especially memorable because we had the pleasure of honoring four retiree volunteers. **Kay Yuhaz**, **Clara Bartalino**, **Linda Hamm** and **Lynda Thibdeau** volunteer on a regular basis.

Kay has assisted with special projects while Linda and Clara have helped out at the front desk. Lynda has been the longest working volunteer assisting in filing. Their enthusiasm and knowledge helps the morale of both veteran workers and new hires.

Volunteer transporters and volunteer office staff received token gifts all week long to celebrate. In the middle of the week the retirees were given a special pizza party to honor their contribution.

**DHS Matters!** is a product of Michigan's Department of Human Services  
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